



WASHINGTON TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Larry Pursley

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT
Dan Gatchet

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Albert Ulrich

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Stan Vander Pol

TREASURER
Craig Iskra

May 10, 2006

Mr. Douglas B MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation
P O Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504

SUBJECT: 519 Intermodal Access Project

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

I am writing in response to a letter dated 4/25/06 sent by David Dye, Urban Corridors Office Administrator, WSDOT, in relation to the above-referenced subject.

I can honestly say that in all my years of dealing with government entities, I have never seen a letter from a government employee that contained such a hostile tone. In my opinion, the letter boils down to, either do it our way or get nothing for the foreseeable future.

The initial agreement by the partners for connecting I-90/I-5 to the waterfront was one that our organization wholeheartedly supported. However, the alternatives that have been proposed are both more expensive and less truck friendly, requiring additional travel distance and a more circuitous route, making them unacceptable.

The reasoning behind the effort to junk the preferred proposal seems to be Seattle's vision for the area has changed. With one hotel already built, another on the drawing board, as well as a plan for over two million square feet of condos, offices and light industrial, the original freight corridor plan is viewed as no longer compatible with the area. This argument would probably make sense if it was not for the fact that the City of Seattle has issued or will issue permits for the very construction that created the problem for the completion of the original 519 agreed upon freight corridor.

I would encourage you to rethink the Department's decision to abandon the original 519 Phase 2, and put the region's economy and the movement of freight as the priority that it should be. Thank you in advance for your consideration. If I can be of further service, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dan Gatchet, President
Washington Trucking Associations